



## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

September 18, 2000

### **H.R. 2641**

#### **A bill to make date extensions**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Commerce on September 14, 2000*

H.R. 2641 would amend the Energy Policy Act by extending the authorization for federal reimbursement of certain remediation costs incurred by private operators of active uranium and thorium processing sites. The amount of reimbursement is tied to the amount of byproduct material at each site attributable to the sale of nuclear materials to the federal government. CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 2641 would have no significant effect on the federal budget. The bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

Under current law, private operators can only be reimbursed for eligible costs incurred or approved by December 31, 2002. H.R. 2641 would extend that date to December 31, 2007. Current law also requires that the sum of costs for work approved to be undertaken after December 31, 2002, be appropriated into an escrow account by that date, for later disbursement as reimbursement claims are made. The bill would repeal the requirement for an escrow account, instead requiring only that costs eligible for reimbursement and expected to be incurred after December 31, 2007, be approved by the Department of Energy (DOE) prior to that date.

Reimbursements made to date total \$302 million, including \$72 million appropriated in fiscal year 2000. Based on information from DOE, CBO estimates that remediation work eligible for reimbursement will occur through 2016 and will require additional spending of between \$87 million and \$115 million. Because the bill would not affect the timing of any remediation work or the spending of amounts to reimburse that work, CBO estimates that the bill would have no significant additional effect on the federal budget. H.R. 2461 would not affect direct spending or receipts; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Lisa Cash Driskill. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.